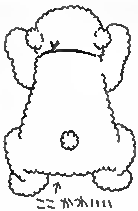
Step 26

I thought that was best.

It's because Morika and I were honest with ourselves...

シロクマのぬいぐるみを買いました。多分生まれて初めて自分のためにぬいぐるみを…アラフォーが！



買ってどうするということでもないんですが、お店で出会ってこのコをうちに連れてかなきゃって思ったのですれ（笑）。直すとかね、抱きしめとかたまらんのですよ。いや、抱かないんですけどね（笑）。スタッフがたまに抱いて潰されてます。

なんとなくぬいぐるみってプレゼントされるものというイメージがあったんです。自分で自分のためにぬいぐるみ買う子って私の知り合いではほぼ見かけないかなってまーはんてなの子らしい…と思ってたんですが、ついに私が！

私の場合、女のオとかそういうことではなく、単に癒しを求めてる性分かなぁ。や、でも抱かないんですけどね（笑）。このシロクマさんが仕事部屋に居ると、ふと、ふと視界に入ったときにほんわ～とします❤

That I liked us.
....Eh....?
WHA-
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "LIKED"!?
YOU WERE ACTING REALLY COUPLE-LIKE!
WASN'T THERE A GOOD VIBE GOING ON BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU!?
Rather!
Rather, why...

Are you looking at me like that?
!
BEEEP
BEEEP

MORIKA...
WHAT HAPPENED?
SERIOUSLY ...
?

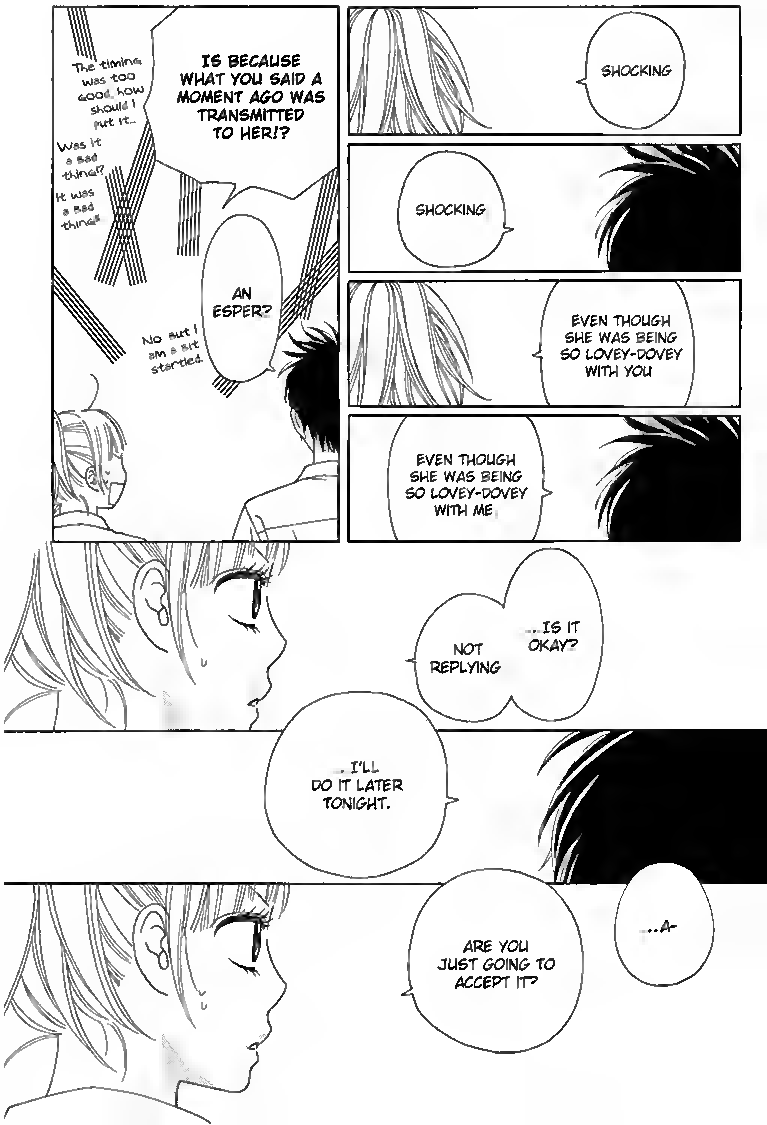
IS SAYING "LET'S BREAK UP".

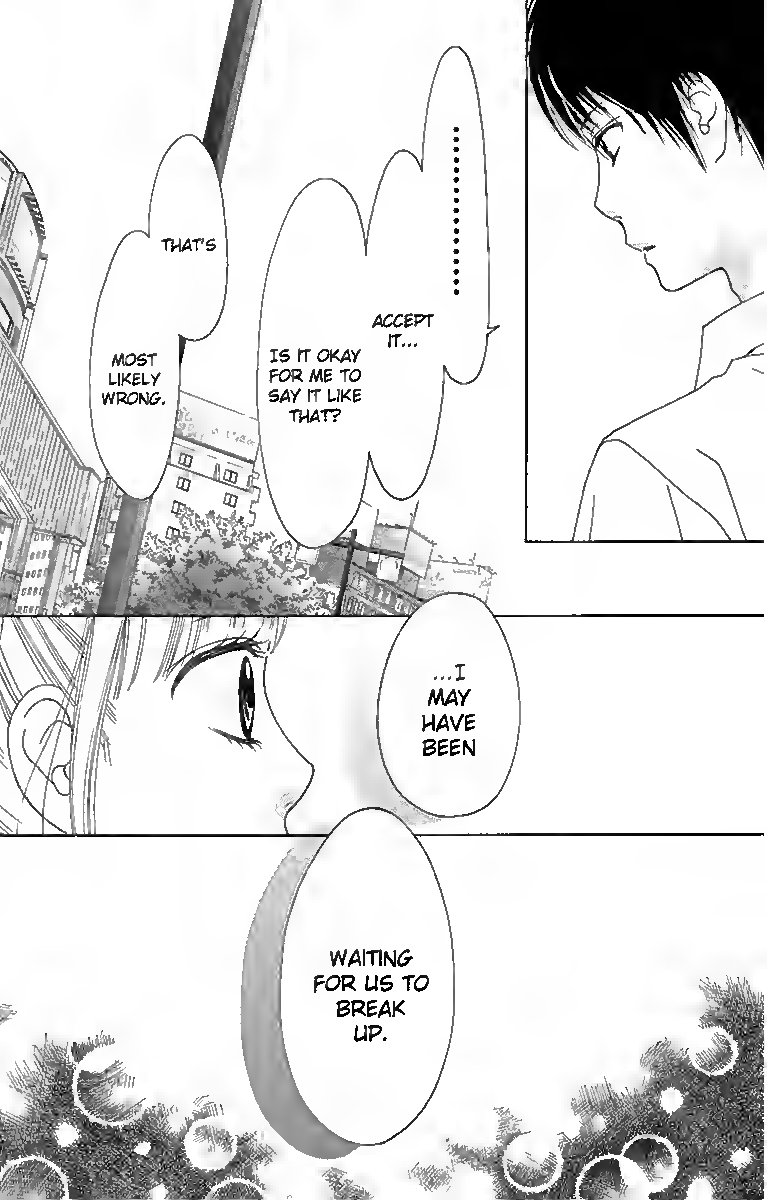
Why don't we break up...?

I haven't considered this well, but you've already noticed it, haven't you? Sazuku, you don't have feelings for me. We lost to the distance after all, huh? There's no helping it, is there? The wall between us seems to be too big.

To be completely honest, when I returned here the other day, I became aware of Yamamoto-kun, who has been supporting me at my side the whole time. I'm sorry.

Ehhhhh!?


IS BECAUSE WHAT YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO WAS TRANSMITTED TO HER!?
The timing was too good, how should I put it...
Was it a bad thing?
It was a bad thing!
AN ESPER?
No, but I am a bit startled.
SHOCKING
SHOCKING
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS BEING SO LOVEY-DOVEY WITH YOU
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS BEING SO LOVEY-DOVEY WITH ME
NOT REPLYING
...IS IT OKAY?
...I'LL DO IT LATER TONIGHT.
...A-
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO ACCEPT IT?


THAT'S MOST LIKELY WRONG.
IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO SAY IT LIKE THAT?
ACCEPT IT...
.....
...I MAY HAVE BEEN
WAITING FOR US TO BREAK UP.

PERHAPS...
What's with that look!?
Like I said!!
L-

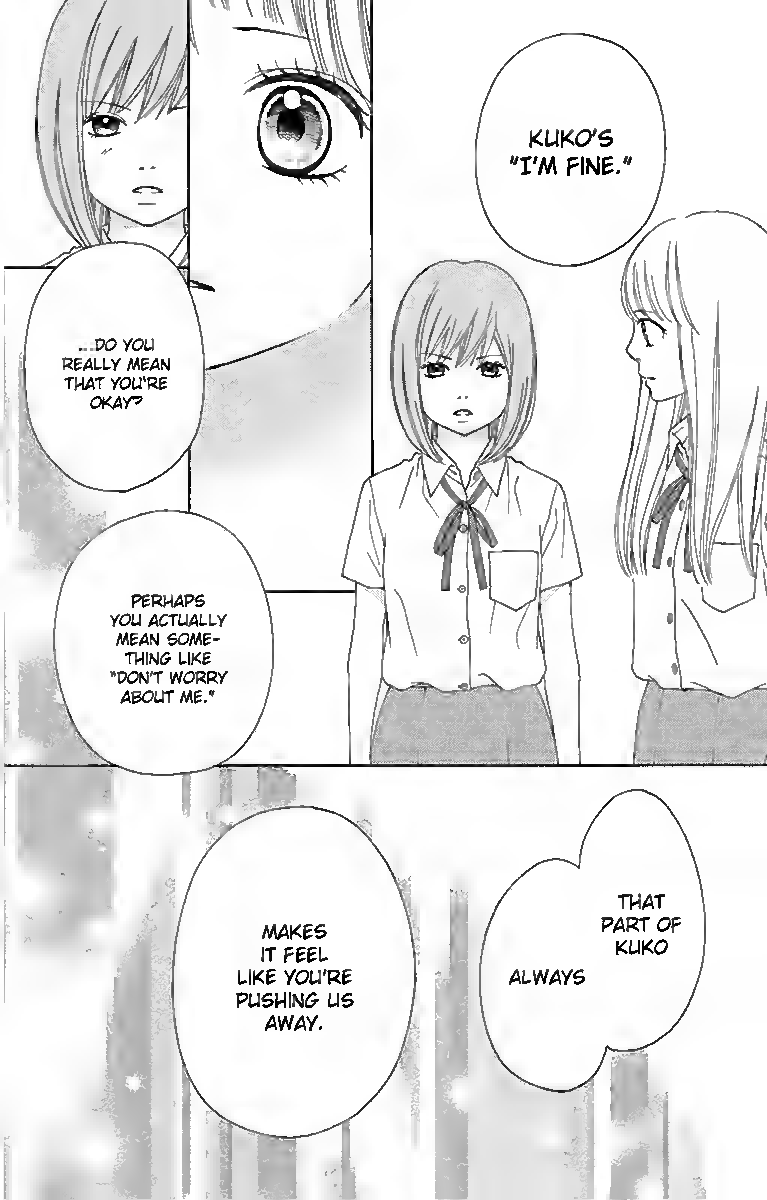
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU.

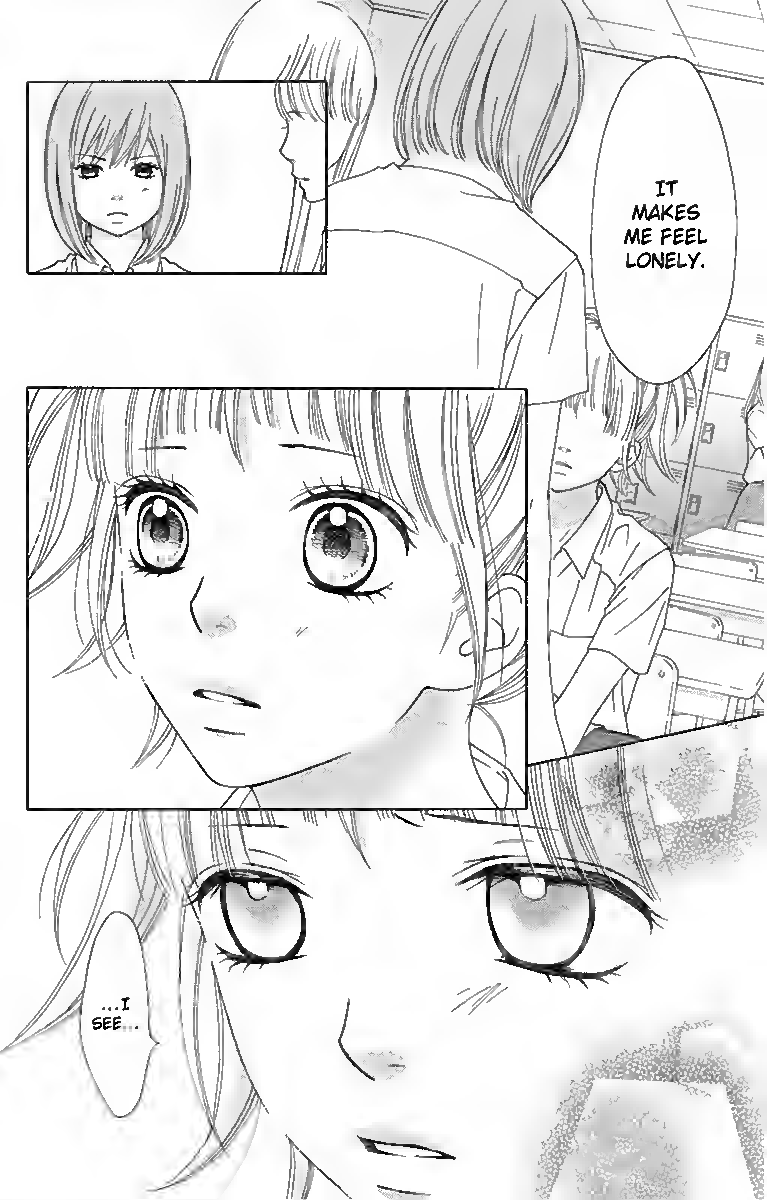
KEH.
WHY!? DID I DO SOME-THING!?
IT MAY HAVE BEEN MY FAULT THAT MORIKA-SAN MISUNDERSTOOD AT FIRST, BUT
APART FROM THAT-
SEE YOU.
HEY!
SAZUKUUU!!

He said it's because of me! I'm the one to blame!
...He said that it's my fault!
Consequently,
what's with that look!?

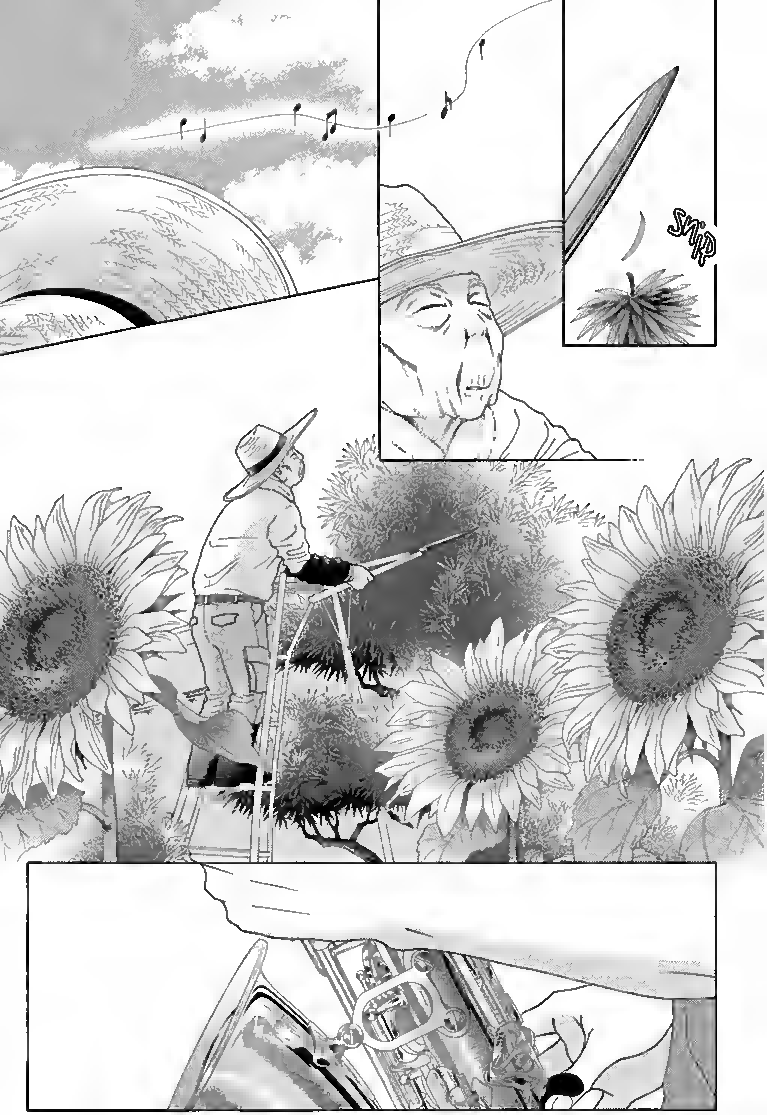
Those eyes
didn't contribute at all.
I thought that was best.
It's because Morika and I were honest with ourselves that I liked us.
It's because of you.
She's the complete opposite of you.
...If I sort out these thoughts...
Sazuku, who thought it was a good thing to be honest with himself...
Because of me, who is not honest with herself...
Or rather were those eyes implying that it was "thanks" to me??
Changed the way he thought about this...?
And if I were to read too much into this...

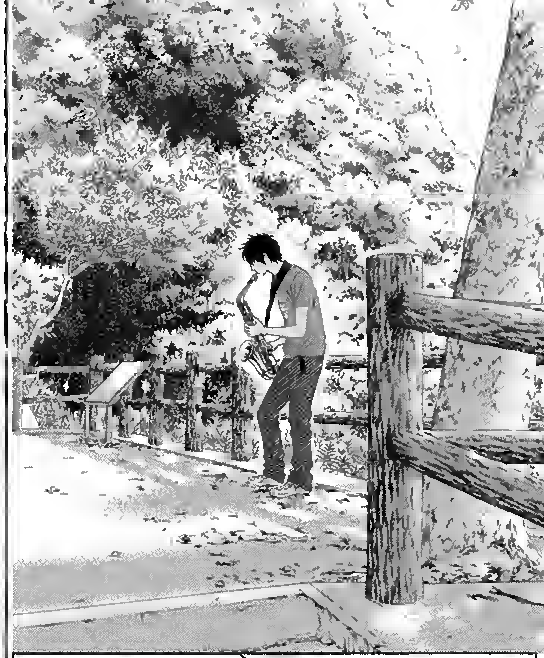
Sazuku-san will come to like you, Kuko.
EEEE


KUKO'S "I'M FINE."
...DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT YOU'RE OKAY?
PERHAPS YOU ACTUALLY MEAN SOMETHING LIKE "DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME."
THAT PART OF KUKO ALWAYS
MAKES IT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE PUSHING US AWAY.


IT MAKES ME FEEL LONELY.
...I SEE...

今巻のカバー絵は神戸北野町にあるガレット屋さんデリスリィククゥーです。
黄色い壁と緑のドア 窓が印象的で、描くならカラーのお仕事をいただいた時がいいと取っておいたのです。やっと描けた！
手前の花をビンボケ風に描くのも楽しかった！
こちらのシェフ様とは以前から仲良くさせていただいてて(てるるんいつもありがとう～！)なかなか考案のガレットを採用してくださったこともあったり。
このコミックスが発売してる頃もなかなか考案ガレットやってるかも！？栗とマロンクリーム キャラメルソース添え 秋香るガレットaです。注文してね！
個人的に年中通してよくいただいてるのは♥リンゴのコンポートとアイスクリームのガレットa。オススメですよ♪♪
他にもスイーツ系ガレットやフード系ガレットなど、いろんなメニューがありますよ～♪
内装の赤い壁も照明もファブリックもすっごい素敵。
こちらのお店は北野坂に面してるので、三宮から北野へ上がっていくときにぜひ目にすると思います。是非行ってみてくださいねー！私もちょこちょこ行ってます♪

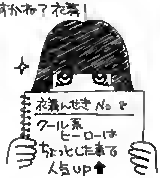

SNIP

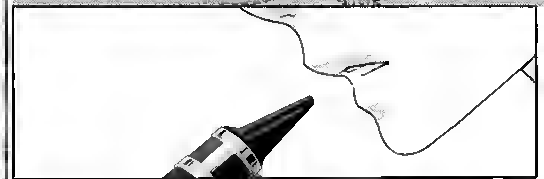


今巻、冒頭は桜太、真ん中がっつり慶で、ラストは●●はわけですが(本当読んでない人のために濁してみました)
ラストのくこの精神が怖、一見すると『なんだ、逆戻りじゃん！相変わらずハナシ進まないねぇ』な感じかもしれませんが(笑)これから描いていきたいことを考えると実はくこは成長しています。少しずつですが。じれったい作品かもしれませんが、最後まで見守ってやってくださいね。

…なんてシメのコメントみたいですが、このコーナーはまだ続きます☆

まだ『あるいヒラ』が1巻の頃、北野でのイベントで行った人気投票では桜太が1位でした。あの頃はただ単に慶より桜太の方が好きだったという理由だけの投票が変更2位。(2位はキヨだったのですが、キヨコスプレをしていたスタッフ男陣の逐一動きによる効果だと思われます。)今また人気投票をしたらどんな順位になるんだろう？やっぱ慶ですかね？ね？





The people that have rejected the me who is not honest with herself are trying to accept me...
WHAT A SHALLOW SOUND
While the people that I thought were accepting me are actually refusing me.

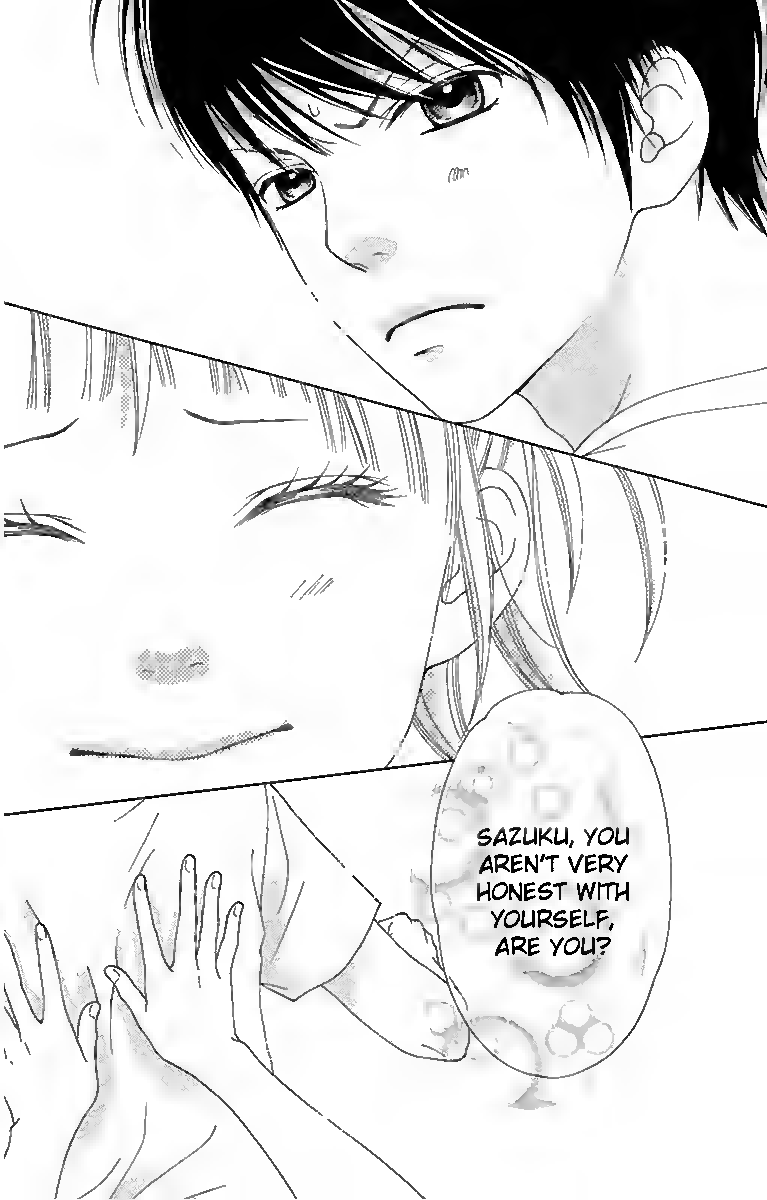
SONE
HAA..
神戸

HUH...?
THAT OLD MAN..?

HEY, HEY, ABOUT THAT OLD MAN...
HEY, YOU! THE OTHER DAY-
AAAAHH!! SAZUKU!!
Ooh! Ebi-Jii! It's been a while since I've seen him play!
THAT'S IT! HE'S KITANO'S GRANDFATHER, ISN'T HE!?
HEY, DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT! WHAT DID YOU MEAN THE OTHER DAY!?
JUST WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?
HEY, WAIT! HE'S ACTUALLY A PRETTY AMAZING PERSON-

CHAT TER
HUH!?
HE'S TELLING YOU TO COME OVER.
THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT? YOU BOTH PLAY THE SAXOPHONE
I'M LEAVING.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M INTERESTED IN THAT KIND OF THING
EH!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THAT KIND OF THING!?
LIKE I SAID!

THAT KIND OF THING!
HUH!?
mutter
—YOU'RE SUCH A LONELY STRAW-BITING PERSON.


SAZUKU, YOU AREN'T VERY HONEST WITH YOURSELF, ARE YOU?

「Aruitou」 Frontispiece Gallery ②

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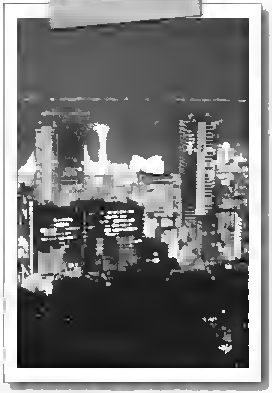

The night v ew from Venus Bridge. Good luck if you re walking there from Kitano (It is located in west Yamamotodori. Hiked from the nearby Suwayama Park which is visible at the bottom right.) Depending on the season, there may be a shuttle from Sannomiya Station

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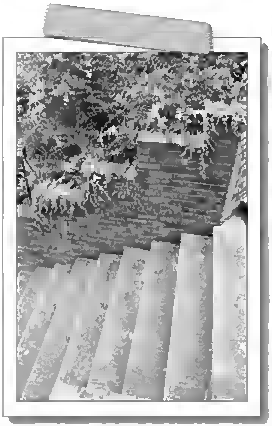
End MAP ④ (p202)



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OK.
COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
HONESTLY, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DRAGGED ME HERE LIKE THAT,...
YOU EVEN ENDANGERED MY LITTLE BROTHER!
SOB
BUT, I WAS DESPERATE!
I'M SORRY! IT'S JUST... WE HAVE SO MANY GREAT PROJECTS AND SO LITTLE STAFF!
BOW
WE REALLY NEED YOU!
FLINCH
SO YOU NEED ME, HUH? THEN I'LL HELP, BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME...
DOKI DOKI
EH!? IS THAT ALL!?
...SAY "PLEASE"
serious

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